

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: NEW YORK

MESSAGE CENTER

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 716, FEBRUARY 26, 6 P.M.

RE: BERLIN

1. IN ADDITION TO VIEWS CONVEYED EARLIER TO DEPARTMENT RE BERLIN, I WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO MERITS OF OUR GOING TO SC PRIOR TO SOVIET TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO EAST GERMANS WITH RESOLUTION CALLING SOLELY FOR PRESERVATION OF STATUS QUO AND RENEWING OFFER TO NEGOTIATE. THIS COULD BE DONE AT ANY TIME BUT MOST EFFECTIVE TIME MIGHT BE ABOUT TWO WEEKS OR SO BEFORE DEADLINE.

2. ATMOSPHERE IN UN ON QUESTION HAVING MILITARY IMPLICATIONS (WHERE COLOR QUESTION NOT INVOLVED) IS DECIDEDLY IN FAVOR OF SIDE MAINTAINING STATUS QUO AND AGAINST SIDE SEEKING TO CHANGE IT. IF WE WERE TO WAIT UNTIL EAST GERMANS HAD BLOCKED ACCESS TO GO TO SC, WE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK REVERSAL OF SITUATION THEN PREVAILING. IF WE ACT BEFORE THEN USSR IS PUT IN POSITION OF ACTING FIRST.

3. I ALSO ASSUME THAT AS MAY 27 DATE APPROACHES INTERNATIONAL TENSION WILL RISE SHARPLY AND FEAR OF WAR WILL BE WIDESPREAD. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ACTION BY US IN SC AT THAT TIME TO FORESTALL DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST GERMANY WOULD RECEIVE MAXIMUM WELCOME FROM NEUTRALISTS AND FROM FRIENDLY STATES WHO WANT DESPERATELY TO AVOID WAR. WITH STRONG SENTIMENT LIKELY TO DEVELOP FOR SUCH MOVE IT WOULD CREATE MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON SOVIETS TO CONCEDE. WE COULD EXPECT MOST SC MEMBERS TO SPEAK IN OUR FAVOR.

4. IF USSR OPPOSED RESOLUTION AND DENOUNCED US AS SIMPLY ENGAGED IN COLD WAR MEASURE TO OBTAIN VETO WE COULD REFRAIN FROM PRESSING RESOLUTION TO VOTE AND SAY THAT WE ARE REFRAINING

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-2- 716, FEBRUARY 26, 6 P.M., FROM NEW YORK

IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO EMBARRASS SOVIET UNION BUT ARE MERELY TRYING TO WORK FOR PEACE. IF SOVIETS REMAIN UNREASONABLE THIS WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHOWN BY THEIR OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION. (WE SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, GIVE ANY INDICATION WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO VETO IN ADVANCE EVEN TO OUR FRIENDS).

5. WE SHOULD ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION POSSIBILITY THAT IF WE DO NOT TAKE ISSUE TO SC SOME OTHER STATE EASILY COULD. EVEN MORE PROBABLE WOULD BE SIMILAR ACTION BY SYG UNDER ARTICLE 99 OF CHARTER, OR INITIATIVES TO CONVENE GA.

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